

Back-to-School Time Also Means Health Check-up

By K. H. SUTHERLAND, M.D.
County Health Officer

During the weeks immediately ahead, parents will be spending considerable time outfitting their children for the school year, but it is more important to obtain a health check-up for them prior to the start of school. When physical defects such as poor eyesight or a hearing loss handicap a child, he may be considered a behavior problem in the classroom or even mentally slow. In the early stages, detection of these conditions by parents is difficult.

A minimum of four medical examinations during a child's school life is the recommendation of the National Committee on School Health Policies which worked with the President's Council on the national youth fitness program. It is advised that these examinations be given at the time of school entrance, during the intermediate grades, at the beginning of adolescence, and again before leaving school.

PARENTS should not be lulled into a false sense of security just because a school child does not bring home a medical referral slip. While there are certain public school

districts in Los Angeles County in which four examinations are given sometime between kindergarten and the 10th grade, this is not true of all school districts. It is not unknown for a child to reach high school age without having had a school physical examination. This variation in health service also applies to

private and religious sponsored schools throughout the County.

Public health agencies conduct school immunization programs, but no agency or school can assume the responsibility of providing complete health care for the child. This duty must rest with the parents who should take their children to the family physician in the recommended periods. It is also their additional responsibility to see that all medical directives are carried out.

EMPHASIS IS placed on the fact that the parent should be present during the physical examination. Questions from

the private physician regarding past illnesses and immunizations, eating, sleeping and other health habits, or pertinent information relative to the child's health can then be obtained to the doctor's satisfaction and treatment started if some condition needs to be remedied. Failure to correct existing defects may result in frequent school absences which will place the child at a disadvantage in the classroom. It may also result in permanent physical or mental damage.

If a youngster is going to school for the first time, immunization against some of the common childhood diseases is in order, for mingling

with so many other school children results in greater exposure to certain contagious diseases. Booster shots against diphtheria and tetanus are usually needed at this time, and revaccination against smallpox may also be recommended. Immunization against polio is required as indicated in the following paragraphs.

This year, school admission of pupils, ranging from the kindergarten set to junior college students, is contingent upon fulfilling the requirements of the State law regarding immunization against poliomyelitis.

IN GENERAL, all students must be fully immunized prior

to admission. However, those who have had at least one Salk-type injection or one administration of an oral-type vaccine, or who are willing to start their first polio immunization within two weeks after admission, may enter school upon the condition that they receive full immunization within a period of a year.

In most cases, a written record made by the physician or agency administering the vaccine is required as evidence of immunization, although in all cases the adult responsible for the care of a child may, in place of a more official record, write a note stating that immunization has been started or completed.

THE LAW does not apply to those students who wish to enroll in a secondary school for courses consisting of less than 10 class hours of instruction a week and who reach the age of 21 before the first day of school.

Pupils are also excused from the compulsory vaccination if it can be shown that such a procedure is against the family's beliefs, or if a physician's certificate is produced stating that such inoculations may endanger the child's physical well-being. In the latter instance, the doctor must indicate how long he thinks this physical disability will last.

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SPORTS FACTS

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What's the oldest organized sport in America? Lacrosse. The Iroquois played it long before Columbus showed up . . . The Dodgers haven't had a home game rained out since moving to L.A. . . . The first intercollegiate basketball game was played 66 years ago in New Haven, Conn. Yale walloped Wesleyan, 39-4.

On Aug. 1, the N.Y. Yankees had only one regular hitting over .300. They had only one pitcher with as many as 14 wins. They were third in club batting and fielding. They were also in first place by five games . . .

Wally Lemm of the St. Louis Cardinals will be the only coach in the National Football League this fall . . . Penn State has had winning football teams for 23 consecutive seasons . . . To date, a total of 29 postage stamps have been issued to honor the invention of basketball . . .

Michigan State's first-string football line this fall will average 227 pounds . . . At 25, Gary Bell is dean of the Cleveland Indians' pitching staff . . . Amos Alonzo Stagg, football's grand old man, was 100 this summer . . .

Public Notice

TH-1018
NOTICE OF HEARING OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL.
No. 458967
In the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Los Angeles.
I, WILLIAM G. SHARP, County Clerk and Clerk of the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Los Angeles, do hereby give notice that the petition of GEORGE CLINTON POWELL, for the Probate of the Will of the above-named deceased and for the issuance of Letters Testamentary thereon to the petitioner, to which reference is hereby made for further particulars, will be heard at 9:15 o'clock A. M., on September 4, 1962, at the court room of the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles.
Dated August 13, 1962.
WILLIAM G. SHARP,
County Clerk and Clerk of the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Los Angeles.
MEWBORN & HITCHCOCK
2211 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, Calif.
FAirfax 8-3472
Attorneys for Petitioner.
T-1018
Aug. 16, 1962

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